

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE  
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

5 1. A post, comprising:

an elongate ground piercing member having a ground  
piercing end and an anvil end at which is positioned an  
anvil, the anvil having a first striking face and a second  
striking face, the second striking face being opposed to the  
10 first striking face;

a tubular housing having a first end, a second end, and  
an interior cavity, the anvil being positioned within the  
interior cavity of the housing with the ground piercing  
member extending through the second end of the housing;

15 a first hammer positioned at the first end of the  
housing, such that relative axial movement of the ground  
piercing member and the housing brings the first hammer into  
contact with the first striking face of the anvil to drive  
the ground piercing end of the ground piercing member into  
20 the ground;

a second hammer positioned at the second end of the  
housing, such that relative axial movement of the ground  
piercing member and the housing brings the second hammer into  
contact with the second striking face of the anvil to remove  
25 the ground piercing end of the ground piercing member from  
the ground; and

a lock engaging the ground piercing member and the  
housing to selectively limit relative axial movement of the  
ground piercing member and the housing to prevent the second  
30 hammer from contacting the second striking face of the anvil.

2. The post as defined in Claim 1, wherein the lock includes  
a transverse passage spaced from the first end of the housing  
which is adapted to receive a locking pin, the locking pin  
35 engaging the anvil end of the ground piercing member to limit

relative axial movement of the ground piercing member and the housing.

3. The post as defined in Claim 2, wherein the transverse  
5 passage is laterally spaced from the ground piercing member  
and underlies the anvil such that the locking pin permits  
relative rotational movement of the ground piercing member  
and the housing, while engaging the anvil to limit relative  
axial movement of the ground piercing member and the housing.

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4. The post as defined in Claim 1, wherein means is provided  
to attach a tethering line adjacent to the second end of the  
housing.

15 5. The post as defined in Claim 2 wherein the locking pin  
has a remote end which has an aperture adapted to receive a  
padlock.

6. A post, comprising:

an elongate ground piercing member having a ground  
piercing end and an anvil end at which is positioned an  
5 anvil, the anvil having a first striking face and a second  
striking face;

a tubular housing having a first end, a second end, and  
an interior cavity, the anvil being positioned within the  
interior cavity of the housing with the ground piercing  
10 member extending through the second end of the housing;

a first hammer positioned at the first end of the  
housing, such that relative axial movement of the ground  
piercing member and the housing brings the first hammer into  
contact with the first striking face of the anvil to drive  
15 the ground piercing end of the ground piercing member into  
the ground;

a second hammer positioned at the second end of the  
housing, such that relative axial movement of the ground  
piercing member and the housing brings the second hammer into  
20 contact with the second striking face of the anvil to remove  
the ground piercing end of the ground piercing member from  
the ground;

a first transverse passage adapted to receive a locking  
pin being spaced from the first end of the housing, the  
25 transverse passage being laterally spaced from the ground  
piercing member and underlying the anvil such that the  
locking pin permits relative rotational movement of the  
ground piercing member and the housing, while engaging the  
anvil to limit relative axial movement of the ground piercing  
30 member and the housing to prevent the second hammer from  
contacting the second striking face of the anvil; and

an attachment tab positioned adjacent to the second end  
of the housing, the attachment tab having an opening adapted  
for attachment of a tethering line for an animal.

7. The post as defined in Claim 6, wherein a portion of the tethering line positioned immediately adjacent to the animal is covered by a rigidifying sleeve.

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8. The post as defined in Claim 6, wherein the locking pin has a remote end which has an aperture adapted to receive a padlock.

10 9. The post as defined in Claim 6, wherein a second transverse passage is provided which extends through both the housing and the piercing member, thereby engaging the anvil end of the ground piercing member to limit relative rotational movement of the ground piercing member and the  
15 housing while limiting relative axial movement of the ground piercing member and the housing to prevent the second hammer from contacting the second striking face of the anvil.

10. A post, comprising:

an elongate ground piercing member having a ground  
piercing end and an anvil end at which is positioned an  
5 anvil, the anvil having a first striking face and a second  
striking face;

a tubular housing having a first end, a second end, and  
an interior cavity, the anvil being positioned within the  
interior cavity of the housing with the ground piercing  
10 member extending through the second end of the housing;

a first hammer positioned at the first end of the  
housing, such that relative axial movement of the ground  
piercing member and the housing brings the first hammer into  
contact with the first striking face of the anvil to drive  
15 the ground piercing end of the ground piercing member into  
the ground;

a second hammer positioned at the second end of the  
housing, such that relative axial movement of the ground  
piercing member and the housing brings the second hammer into  
20 contact with the second striking face of the anvil to remove  
the ground piercing end of the ground piercing member from  
the ground;

a transverse passage adapted to receive a locking pin  
being spaced from the first end of the housing, the  
25 transverse passage extending through the anvil end of the  
ground piercing member such that the locking pin limits both  
relative rotational movement and relative axial movement of  
the ground piercing member and the housing.

30 11. The post as defined in Claim 11, wherein the locking pin  
has a remote end which has an aperture adapted to receive a  
padlock.

12. A tethering line for an animal, comprising:

a line having a first end and a second end, the first end being adapted to be secured to an animal for a four-legged animal; and

5 a portion of the first end of the line being covered by at least one rigidifying sleeve segment, the at least one rigidifying sleeve segment being of a length that extends beyond a back leg of the animal, thereby preventing the line from becoming tangled in the animal's legs.

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13. The tethering line of claim 12, wherein the rigidifying sleeve includes more than one rigidifying sleeve segment connected in end to end relation along the line.

15 14. The tethering line of claim 12, wherein one of the first end or the second end of the line has a swivel to prevent the line from tangling.

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